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## **Solar Decathlon Graphics and Communication Results Announced**

### *First Place Goes to University of Colorado*

WASHINGTON, DC - The University of Colorado at Boulder took first place in the Graphics and Communication results announced today at the U. S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon competition on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Auburn University placed second and Crowder College placed third.

The Solar Decathlon runs through Oct. 5. With today's third round contest results, and results from ongoing contests, the University of Colorado at Boulder remains in first. Auburn University has moved into second, and the University of Maryland has moved into third.

Graphics and Communication is one of 10 contests in the Solar Decathlon and carries a maximum weight of 100 in the overall point score. Competing teams are being judged continuously on several aspects of the performance of their houses. The total points possible for the 10 contests in the Solar Decathlon is 1,100 points.

The Solar Decathlon Village is open to the public through Oct. 6. Exhibits with information on each team's home, the contest and renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are adjacent to the Solar Decathlon Village on the Mall between 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street and between the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum and the west building of the National Gallery of Art.

For the Solar Decathlon, the solar decathletes had to figure ways to harness the power of the sun to supply all the energy for an entire household, including a home-based business, along with the transportation needs of the household and business. Each house, limited to roughly 500 square feet for purposes of the competition, is being judged on 10 criteria to determine which most efficiently employs solar energy for heating, cooling, hot water, lighting, appliances, computers and charging an electric car.

Sponsors of the Solar Decathlon, in addition to the DOE, include BP Solar, The Home Depot, EDS, the American Institute of Architects and DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. For more on the Solar Decathlon, see <http://www.solardecathlon.org>

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